

Library

Lunesdale Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1958



Lunesdale Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1958

LUNESDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council:

Mrs. M. DOWBIGGIN.

Vice-Chairman:

G. W. PILKINGTON, Esq., J.P.

Public Health Committee:

Chairman:

Mrs. M. DOWBIGGIN.

Vice-Chairman:

E. R. HARRIS, Esq.

Committee:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| S. J. BARGH, Esq., J.P., C.C. | H. SHANNON, Esq. |
| L. CARR, Esq. | J. T. SHAW, Esq. |
| W. J. GRUNWELL, Esq. | E. STEPHENSON, Esq. |
| W. H. HILLMAN, Esq. | Miss A. G. TAYLOR. |
| Mrs. D. M. HOPKINS. | W. THOMSON, Esq. |
| P. HOWSON, Esq., J.P. | H. L. THORNBURGER, Esq. |
| T. JOHNSON, Esq. | Cmdr. P. E. U. TOWNSHEND. |
| Mrs. E. M. MACKERETH. | T. P. WOODHOUSE, Esq. |
| N. PARKIN, Esq. | H. WOODS, Esq. (deceased). |
| G. W. PILKINGTON, Esq., J.P. | |

Clerk of the Council:

J. A. HALLSWORTH, Esq., D.P.A.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. W. FARQUHAR, B.Sc.(Agr.), M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector, Engineer and Surveyor:

A. WARBURTON.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29746504>

CONTENTS

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA. *Page 11*

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE
AREA *Page 15*

SECTION C.

PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
DISEASES *Page 21*

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA *Page 27*

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1958

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lunesdale Rural District Council:*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Lunesdale Rural District in respect of the year ending 31st December, 1958.

The estimated population at mid-year 1958 was 7,440, being 140 more than in the previous year. The figure at the 1951 census was 7,351. Of the total population it is estimated that approximately 1,100 or just over 15% are of pensionable age or older, and of these about 160 are living alone.

There were 121 live births in 1958, giving an adjusted birth rate of 16.6 per 1,000 population, the comparable rates for England and Wales and the Administrative County being 16.4 and 16.5 respectively.

The total number of deaths assigned to the district was 87, equivalent to an adjusted death rate of 11.7 per 1,000 population. This may be compared with the national rate of 11.7 and the county rate of 13.9. Diseases of the heart and circulatory system appeared as the most common cause of death and in this group coronary disease continues to be the chief culprit.

There were no maternal deaths but four infants died at under four weeks of age.

The incidence of infectious diseases was at low level and the general health of the inhabitants remained satisfactory throughout the year.

The progress made in recent years in improving rural sewerage continues. In reporting on the sanitary circumstances of the District your Public Health Inspector and Surveyor has drawn attention to two further schemes which it is anticipated will provide the villages of Whittington and Wray with sewers and modern disposal facilities.

Of the total of 97 houses built in 1958 no less than 77 were erected by private enterprise. Improvement schemes qualifying for substantial grants were completed in respect of a further 15 premises in 1958, and altogether since 1950 a total of 84 houses have been preserved and modernised in this way.

In conclusion, I wish to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the support and encouragement given to the officers of the Health Department during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. FARQUHAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA**

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| AREA of the District (Acres)... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 76,267 |
| POPULATION (Census 1951) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,351 |
| POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate mid/58) | ... | | | | | | 7,440 |
| NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1931) | ... | ... | | | | | 1,633 |
| NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1951 Census)... | | | | | | | 2,091 |
| NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1958) | ... | ... | | | | | 2,423 |
| AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE (1958)... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3.17 |
| NUMBER OF HOUSES PER ACRE (1958) | ... | ... | ... | | | | 0.03 |
| NUMBER OF PERSONS PER ACRE (1958) | ... | ... | | | | | 0.09 |
| RATEABLE VALUE (at 1st April, 1959) | ... | ... | ... | | | | £93,404 |
| SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (at 1st April, 1959) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £377 |

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS.

The social conditions of the District are reasonably satisfactory and the chief occupations of the inhabitants are :—

Agriculture.

Manufacture of Textiles (Cotton and Artificial Silk).

Lime Stone Quarrying.

Brick manufacture.

There is no unemployment in the District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS — 1958.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|----------------------|-------|
| <i>Live Births</i> | | | | | | Male | Females | Total |
| Legitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 57 | 60 | 117 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | | | | 58 | 63 | 121 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated home population... | | | | | | Crude : | | 16.3 |
| | | | | | | Adjusted : | | 16.6 |
| <i>Still Births</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Legitimate... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | — | — | — |
| | | | | | | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | | | — | — | — |
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... | | | | | | | | 8.2 |
| <i>Deaths</i> (All Causes) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 42 | 45 | 87 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 estimated home population ... | | | | | | Crude : | | 11.7 |
| | | | | | | Adjusted : | | 11.7 |
| <i>Deaths from Maternal Causes</i> ... | | | | | | | | Nil |
| Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... | | | | | | | | Nil |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Legitimate... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | — | — | — |
| | | | | | | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| | | | | | | — | — | — |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births | | | | | | | | 33.1 |
| <i>Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of Age</i> | | | | | | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... | | | | | | | | 33.1 |
| <i>Deaths from Certain Specified Diseases</i> | | | | | | Deaths | Rate per 1,000 pop'n | |
| Cancer (all forms) ... | | | | | | 9 | 1.21 | |
| Respiratory Tuberculosis ... | | | | | | Nil | Nil | |

**TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1958.**

| Cause of Death | Male | Female | Total |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Tuberculosis, respiratory | — | — | — |
| Tuberculosis, other | — | — | — |
| Syphilitic disease | — | — | — |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough... .. | — | — | — |
| Meningococcal infections | — | — | — |
| Acute poliomyelitis | — | — | — |
| Measles | — | — | — |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases ... | — | — | — |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 1 | — | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast | — | 1 | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus | — | — | — |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia | — | 1 | 1 |
| Diabetes | — | 1 | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 4 | 13 | 17 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 14 | 8 | 22 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | — | — | — |
| Other heart disease | 3 | 9 | 12 |
| Other circulatory disease | — | 2 | 2 |
| Influenza | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Pneumonia | — | — | — |
| Bronchitis | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | — | — | — |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | 1 | — | 1 |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea... .. | — | — | — |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | — | — | — |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | 2 | — | 2 |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | — | — | — |
| Congenital malformations | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 1 | — | 1 |
| All other accidents | — | 1 | 1 |
| Suicide | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Homicide and operations of war... .. | — | — | — |
| TOTAL DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES ... | 42 | 45 | 87 |

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1958 AND THE PERIOD 1953—1957.

| YEAR | Live births | | Deaths (all causes) | | Still births | | Maternal Mortality | | Infant Mortality | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| | No. regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 pop'n | No. regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 pop'n | No. regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 total births | No. of deaths regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 total births | Total | | Neo-natal | |
| | | | | | | | | | No. of deaths regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 live births | No. of deaths regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 live births |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1958 | 121 | 16.3* | 87 | 11.7* | 1 | 8.2 | Nil. | Nil. | 4 | 33.1 | 4 | 33.1 |
| 1957 | 104 | 14.2 | 94 | 12.9 | 1 | 10 | Nil. | Nil. | 1 | 10 | 1 | 10 |
| 1956 | 105 | 14.5 | 101 | 13.9 | 2 | 19 | Nil. | Nil. | 2 | 19 | 1 | 10 |
| 1955 | 108 | 14.9 | 83 | 11.5 | 1 | 9 | Nil. | Nil. | 1 | 9 | 1 | 9 |
| 1954 | 125 | 17.5 | 77 | 10.8 | 2 | 16 | Nil. | Nil. | 1 | 8 | 1 | 8 |
| 1953 | 114 | 15.7 | 75 | 10.3 | 2 | 17 | Nil. | Nil. | 1 | 9 | 1 | 9 |
| AVERAGE 5 yrs 1953-1957 | — | 15.4 | — | 11.9 | — | 14.2 | — | — | — | 11.0 | — | 9.2 |

* Adjusted { live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.02) = 16.6 per 1,000
death-rate (comparability factor, 1.00) = 11.7 per 1,000

SECTION B.

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.**

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance Service

Lancaster Ambulance Station. Telephone Lancaster 3311.

Care of Children—Children Act, 1948.

No 12 Area Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council.
Area Children's Officer : Miss F. M. Jay, B.A., 35A, China Street,
Lancaster. Telephone 3020.

Clinics.

1. CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

- (a) The Village Institute, Hornby : First Thursday of month, 2 to 4 p.m.
- (b) The Institute, Caton. Every alternate Wednesday, 2 to 4 p.m.
- (c) Congregational Church Hall, Halton; Every alternate Wednesday, 2 to 4 p.m.
- (d) Market Street, Carnforth : Every Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m.

2. DENTAL.

- (a) Market Street, Carnforth : Every Thursday, by arrangement.
- (b) Ashton Road Clinic, Lancaster : Daily, by arrangement.

3. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

- (a) Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, smallpox and tuberculosis can be provided free of charge at Child Welfare Centres within the district. Appointments arranged as required.
- (b) The same service can also be provided free by the General Medical Practitioners in the area.

4. OPHTHALMIC.

Market Street, Carnforth : Alternate Wednesday mornings.

5. ORTHOPAEDIC.

Ashton Road Clinic, Lancaster : By arrangement.

6. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENTS.

Market Street, Carnforth : Friday mornings, 9-30—11-30 a.m.

7. SPEECH THERAPY.

Ryelands House, Lancaster : Tuesdays and Wednesdays, by appointment.

Convalescence

Arrangements can be made through the Divisional Health Office, Regent Street, Lancaster, for the admission of children and adults to convalescent or recuperative homes. This service is not normally free of charge.

Health Visiting Service

Full time nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire County Council to carry out duties as health visitors and school nurses.

Home Help Service

Home Helps resident within the Lunesdale District are available to provide help in the home for persons who are incapacitated by illness, old age and infirmity, confinement, etc. Those who can afford to pay for this service are required to do so according to their means.

Home Nursing and Midwifery

Full time nurse/midwives, who combine the duties of district nursing and domiciliary midwifery, are available within the District as follows :—

Caton : “ Milford,” Brookhouse Road, Telephone Caton 192.

Hornby : 2, Robin Croft, Gressingham, Telephone Hornby 307.

Laboratory Service

Samples of water, milk and specimens in connection with infectious diseases are sent to the Pathology Department at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary for bacteriological examination. Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst at Preston.

Mental Health Service

Medical Officers and mental health workers on the Divisional Health staff are responsible for the ascertainment of mental defectives and for the supervision and training of those remaining in the community. An Occupation Centre for the training of mentally defective children is available in Lancaster. The duly authorised officers are concerned also in securing the admission to hospital of those in urgent need of treatment for mental illness, and in their care after discharge from hospital.

Nursing Homes

Caton Green Nursing Home, Caton. Telephone 134.

Welfare Services

The following welfare services are provided by the Lancashire County Council and are administered by Divisional Health Committee No. 2.

(a) RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

For persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them, accommodation is provided at Bay View, Fair Elms and The Laurels at Lancaster; the Empress Hostel at Morecambe; Moor Platt and the Hermitage at Caton.

(b) TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

In case of urgent need, *e.g.*, by reason of fire, flood or eviction, arrangements are made for the temporary accommodation of those rendered homeless.

(c) HANDICAPPED PERSONS

For persons who are blind or deaf or otherwise substantially and permanently handicapped certain welfare provisions are made available either directly or through the agency of voluntary societies.



SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1958.

| Diseases | Total Cases | Age Period — Years | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|--------------|
| | | 0— | 1— | 2— | 3— | 4— | 5— | 10— | 15— | 25— | 45— | 65 and over | Age Un-known |
| Scarlet Fever | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough ... | 21 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Measles ... | 5 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dysentery | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Acute Pneumonia | 5 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Erysipelas | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Tuberculosis Non-respiratory | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Total Cases.. | 41 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 17 | — | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

TUBERCULOSIS—1958.

| Age Groups. | Notifications. | | | | Deaths. | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | New Cases. | | Inward Transfer. | | | |
| | Respiratory | Other Forms. | Respiratory | Other Forms. | Respiratory | Other Forms. |
| 0— | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5— | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 10— | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15— | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 20— | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25— | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 35— | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45— | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55— | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 and Over | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |

TOTAL INCIDENCE

Notifications of infectious diseases in 1958 totalled 41 as against 161 in 1957, this decrease being due to the fact that measles was much less prevalent.

SCARLET FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA

Four cases of scarlet fever were notified compared with 10 in the previous year. The last case of diphtheria notified in the district was in 1947.

Memories of this once virulent and often fatal disease are fading and it is becoming difficult to maintain an adequate level of immunity in the population because far too many young parents fail to ensure that their children receive protection by means of active immunisation.

Immunisation is a free service, available either from the family doctor, through school clinics, or at child welfare centres. Under the present immunisation scheme facilities are provided for protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, whereby inoculations may be given against diphtheria or whooping cough separately, or in further combination with protection against tetanus. The following table shows the number of Lunesdale children immunised during 1955-1958 against each of these three diseases.

IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT 1955 - 1958

| Number of individuals who completed a full course of primary immunisation | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------|-------|----------------|------|-------|---------|------|-------|
| | Diphtheria | | | Whooping Cough | | | Tetanus | | |
| Age Groups | 0-4 | 5-14 | T't'l | 0-4 | 5-14 | T't'l | 0-4 | 5-14 | T't'l |
| 1958 | 105 | 5 | 110 | 107 | 4 | 111 | 105 | 4 | 109 |
| 1957 | 92 | 6 | 98 | 88 | 1 | 89 | 72 | 1 | 73 |
| 1956 | 70 | 11 | 81 | 67 | 3 | 70 | 42 | 1 | 43 |
| 1955 | 125 | 21 | 146 | 57 | — | 57 | 5 | — | 5 |

| Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement injection | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|--|--|---------------------|--|--|
| Age Groups | Diphtheria All ages | | | Whooping Cough All ages | | | Tetanus All ages | | |
| 1958 | 125 | | | 26 | | | 8 | | |
| 1957 | 155 | | | 20 | | | 1 | | |
| 1956 | 113 | | | 3 | | | 2 | | |
| 1955 | 125 | | | 2 | | | — | | |

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

Five cases of measles and 21 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year as compared with 131 and 14 respectively for 1957.

GASTRO-INTESTINAL INFECTIONS

It is satisfactory to be able to report that no cases of food poisoning and only 2 cases of dysentery occurred in 1958.

POLIOMYELITIS

The District was again free from poliomyelitis and vaccination against this disease is now being readily accepted.

TUBERCULOSIS

Only one new case of tuberculosis (non-pulmonary) was notified in 1958, and no deaths from this disease were recorded. Mortality from all forms of tuberculosis continues to decline throughout the country as a whole, particularly within the last decade.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY

The supply of water for domestic use in the district can be said to be reasonably satisfactory, since over 80 per cent of the houses in the area are connected to the Council's mains. Premises in the remote and high-lying parts of the parishes of Quernmore and Tatham, to which it is not possible to afford a public supply are almost all provided with piped supplies from private sources. Many of these premises are farms and where milk is produced, the Ministry of Agriculture, through the Milk Advisory Officers, obtain samples of water for bacteriological examination with a view to ascertaining the suitability or otherwise of the supply before licensing the premises for the production of milk, thus ensuring as high a purity of water as is possible in the particular circumstances.

The chief source of supply of water passing to householders in the area is obtained from the Manchester Corporation's Thirlmere Aqueduct. Four main connections are made to the aqueduct which serve properties in and around the various villages as follows :—

- (1) **Regional Scheme** : Arkholme, Whittington, Aughton, Gressingham, Melling, Cantsfield, Tunstall, Burrow, Leck, Ireby, Wennington, and a part of the parish of Tatham.
- (2) **Borwick** : The village of Borwick. This main then passes into the Lancaster Rural District to supply a large portion of the northern part of that area.
- (3) **Nether Kellet and Over Kellet.**
- (4) **Halton.**

A fifth connection to the Aqueduct is only used in times of emergency to provide a supply to properties in the parish of Caton.

The Council also has two other schemes in operation in the area under direct management and these are known locally as the Hornby Castle Scheme and the Caton Supply.

The Council purchased the Hornby Castle Scheme in 1938 from the owners of the Estate, when the estate was sold. This supply was originally installed by the owners of the Estate many years ago to supply their various properties. Intakes are situated on the bank of the River Roeburn and the water is treated by passing it through settling tanks, slow sand filters and chlorinated before storage. On leaving the works, a carbon filter is installed for dechlorination purposes and after eleven years' continuous use the filter is still found to be most effective.

The Caton Scheme was also a private venture some 70-80 years ago to give a mains supply to premises in Brookhouse and Caton. These works were purchased by the Council in 1905. Water for this scheme is obtained from two intakes on a stream known as 'Traitors' Gill and one on Tarn Brook, and after passing through a rough gravel filter, the water is stored in an open reservoir of nearly 1,000,000 gallons capacity. A hypo-chlorinator is used on the main on leaving the reservoir for treatment purposes. Housing development in and around the village of Caton has led to a considerable increase in water consumption on this scheme over the past few years and there are occasions when the ancillary supply from Thirlmere Aqueduct has to be brought into more continuous use than was at first anticipated.

Under a private Act of Parliament, the Lancaster Corporation has power to provide a water supply to certain parishes in the district and advantage of these powers has been taken to connect a number of houses to mains in the parishes of Quernmore and Halton. Some of this water is taken before treatment.

No major improvement works were undertaken during 1957 but mains extensions have been carried out where necessary to serve new properties particularly in Caton and Halton.

An estimate is given below of the supplies to properties in each parish in the district with an approximate figure of the population served at the end of the year.

Water Supplies to Houses in the District:

| Parish | From Public Mains | | Private Supplies | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | No. of Houses | Population Served | No. of Houses. | Population Served |
| Arkholme-with-Cawood ... | 64 | 172 | 23 | 80 |
| Borwick | 44 | 126 | 6 | 20 |
| Burrow-with-Burrow ... | 44 | 125 | 6 | 15 |
| Cantsfield | 21 | 74 | 1 | 5 |
| Caton-with-Littledale ... | 502 | 1,501 | 41 | 126 |
| Claughton | 33 | 91 | 6 | 16 |
| Gressingham | 46 | 123 | 2 | 8 |
| Halton-with-Aughton ... | 387 | 1,290 | 5 | 18 |
| Hornby-with-Farleton ... | 157 | 442 | 4 | 14 |
| Ireby | 16 | 51 | 4 | 15 |
| Nether Kellet | 83 | 265 | 3 | 8 |
| Over Kellet | 115 | 390 | 14 | 50 |
| Leck | 52 | 158 | 8 | 26 |
| Melling-with-Wrayton ... | 65 | 210 | — | — |
| Quernmore | 86 | 283 | 86 | 280 |
| Roeburndale | — | — | 21 | 80 |
| Tatham | 49 | 160 | 65 | 230 |
| Tunstall | 28 | 70 | 5 | 15 |
| Wennington | 41 | 136 | 1 | 4 |
| Whittington | 80 | 235 | 19 | 56 |
| Wray-with-Botton | 124 | 370 | 23 | 102 |
| Total Whole District ... | 2,037 | 6,272 | 343 | 1,168 |

Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies

Routine sampling and testing of all water supplies is a most effective measure for the protection of the general public and specimens of water from various sources are regularly obtained for a bacteriological report. The samples are delivered to the Laboratory at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary and set out below are the results of the analyses of samples submitted during 1958 :—

(a) *Raw Water.*

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of specimens submitted | 10 |
| Number found to be satisfactory | 7 |
| Number found to be unsatisfactory | 3 |

(b) *Treated Water.*

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of specimens submitted | 10 |
| Number found to be satisfactory | 8 |
| Number found to be unsatisfactory | 2 |

Owners of private supplies are notified of the results of these examinations and, where necessary, advice given as to possible sources of contamination and the action thought necessary to clear up any pollution. An increase in chlorine dosage and extensive mains flushing is carried out immediately on receipt of an unsatisfactory report on a public supply.

Chemical Examination

The County Analyst at Preston undertakes the chemical examination of the supplies. Three samples were submitted for analysis, all from public supplies and these were reported upon as satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

One of the most urgent and important sanitary requirements in the area is the provision of new sewers and adequate treatment works for dealing with this type of domestic waste and this fact has been stressed for a number of years in previous reports.

Details of the drainage facilities in the various parishes have been set out in previous annual reports and it is not proposed to reiterate them as members of the Council are well aware of this information.

It is pleasing to report that works of this nature are now in operation in parts of the district. New works have been provided to serve the villages of Nether Kellet, Over Kellet, Halton and Caton.

Work commenced, during the year, on the provision of new treatment works and the linking of sewers in the village of Hornby. Good progress was being made at the end of the year on this contract and it is hoped to bring the works into operation early in 1959.

Details were also being compiled for the provision of similar schemes to serve the villages of Whittington and Wray, and it is anticipated that these schemes will be forwarded to the Ministry during the next few months.

The construction of small private septic tanks for individual houses in villages where no sewers are available, and on farms, continues. As in other areas, the problem of maintenance of these small individual units is one on which owners continue to have difficulty. Requests for assistance are frequent, but the Council have neither the staff nor financial resources to provide a service for this work and private builders have difficulty in obtaining labour when called in to clean out the tanks.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Set out below are details of the estimated number and type of sanitary accommodation at properties in the district at the end of the year :—

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-------|------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| No. of Pail Closets | ... | 55 | No. of Ashbins | ... | ... | 2,790 |
| No. of Privy Middens | ... | 406 | No. of Closets attached | ... | ... | 450 |
| No. of Houses on Water | | | No. of Fresh Water Closets.. | | | 2,185 |
| Carriage System | ... | 1,748 | | | | |

Conversions during 1958 :

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| Number of Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets | ... | 40 |
| Number of Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets | ... | 1 |
| Number of Fixed Receptacles to Moveable Ashbins | ... | 28 |

The figures for alteration of the various types of old conveniences show a reasonable increase over previous years and this has been due to the provision of the new sewage schemes over the past two or three years. Where these schemes have been provided, owners of property have been very co-operative in carrying out the conversion of pails and privy middens to fresh water closets and it has not been necessary to take formal action on any occasion to have this work put in hand. It is only hoped that this favourable state of affairs will continue as other schemes come along.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household refuse collection is carried out by the Council's staff in all parts of the district. Most properties are called upon at approximately 10-12 days intervals, whilst outlying farms, where a collection has been requested, are visited at varying intervals of about a month.

The absence of any serious complaints throughout the year indicates that the ratepayers in the area are satisfied with the service and reflects credit on the workmen employed on this service. The amount of refuse collected continues to increase, principally in bulk as more and more food containers find their way to the refuse bin and waste paper deposited in the dustbins causes considerable trouble on the tip site particularly in windy weather. Much more use could be made of the bulk of this paper if only householders would put it on one side for salvage collection.

The Council employ six workmen on this service and three vehicles are used, whilst a seventh man is engaged to act as general foreman and rodent operator and he takes over on refuse collection during holidays and sickness periods.

During 1958, refuse was removed from 81,338 ashbins and 1,624 privy middens and pail closets were cleansed, vehicle mileage for the year being 23,635. The number of ashbins emptied and the vehicle mileage shows a further increase over previous years as is only to be expected when the construction of new houses and increased collection from outlying farms are taken into consideration. A decrease of almost 1,000 in the number of privies and pails emptied is a welcome feature, particularly to the workmen and this is due, in no small measure, to the provision of the new sewerage facilities in the district with the resultant conversion of this unsatisfactory type of sanitary convenience. These privies and pails are emptied during the ordinary course of collection and the workmen take all reasonable precautions to prevent complaints of spillage of this type of refuse.

Disposal of the refuse takes place on two sites, one known as Timpenny Quarry in the Parish of Over Kellet, and the other in the old Town's Quarry at Whittington, the bulk of the refuse being dealt with at Timpenny. This tip was leased some years ago from an adjoining farmer and the site was estimated to be capable, at the time, of dealing with the refuse of the district for about 15 years. Owing to the increase in the amount of refuse collected, it is doubtful if we have now more than 18 months to 2 years tipping area left and the difficulty in obtaining a suitable and convenient site for further tipping is a problem which will shortly have to be given consideration.

The salvage of waste-paper, rags, metals, etc., has again been continued, and the workmen enjoy a bonus based on the sales of these materials.

HOUSING

New houses were in course of construction in various parts of the district at the end of the year, 97 houses being completed and occupied. Of these, 77 were built by private enterprise and 20 by Contractors for the Council. The Council had 7 Old Persons' Bungalows in the course of construction at the end of the year, the policy being at the moment to build only for the re-housing of families from properties in Clearance Areas or Individual Unfit Houses which are subject to Demolition Orders, and for Old People.

Speculative building, principally in the neighbourhood of Halton and Caton, is still providing the main source of supply and several new sites are being developed in this manner. The demand apparently at the moment is for small two or three-bedroomed houses or bungalows at a reasonably economic price.

Private individuals wishing to have their own houses away from the speculative sites still find great difficulty in obtaining sites, as owners of suitable plots of land in or around the villages are reluctant to sell off even small portions for building purposes or are inclined to ask prohibitive prices.

Towards the end of the year it was established that there were 147 outstanding applications for Council houses. Of these, 99 applicants expressed the desire for a house in either Caton or Halton, and the demand for Old Persons' Bungalows accounted for 36 applications.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1958 is given as 2,423 and it is reasonable to state that at least one-third of the houses in the District have been built within the past 30 or 40 years and are of a good standard provided with modern amenities. Most of these houses are of brick construction with slate or tile roofs, the external walls being roughcast or cement rendered to be in keeping with the rural area.

Older houses were built with local or near local stone, roofs being of blue slate or grey stone slates and most of these old houses show some trace of dampness owing to the lack of damp-proof courses in the random rubble walls. Taken as a whole, however, the general standard of housing conditions throughout the district is good. Many of the owner/occupied properties of the older types are in the hands of people who are house-proud and desire as far as finances will allow, to modernise their homes wherever possible. Without doubt, this fact has some bearing on the number of applications received for Improvement Grant from owner/occupiers.

The rents of many of these older types of houses vary and in many cases are very low. The present high cost of building labour and materials throws a great financial strain on owners of these houses but it has been found that very little difficulty is met with when owners are requested to carry out repairs.

Applications for financial assistance under the Improvement Grant provisions of the Housing Act are still being considered by the Council, the amount of grant being set out in the report for 1957, *i.e.*, a maximum of 40 per cent on £400 for existing houses with a further 25 per cent on the next £400 where an additional unit of accommodation is being provided. Before an application is submitted to the Council, every effort is made to meet owners or architects and contractors at the property to go into the proposals. The whole procedure is outlined to ensure as little delay as possible when the application is being dealt with officially. There is no doubt that by dealing with applications in this manner, although in some cases a considerable amount of preliminary work is done, the time spent on the site is of great benefit to all concerned once the application is approved.

Each application is examined by a Sub-Committee and their decision reported to the Public Health Committee for confirmation. During the year under review, 21 applications were put forward and all but one of these were approved for maximum assistance. At the end of the year 15 schemes involving 15 houses had been completed.

The amount of grant agreed to on these houses was £2,673, an average of approximately £178 per house, and it will be appreciated that the total cost of the works involved owners in a considerable amount of capital to bring their houses to the modern standards laid down in the Housing Act for this purpose.

Steady progress has been made in the Slum Clearance programme, 24 persons in 10 families from Clearance Areas were rehoused during 1958 and 24 persons or 7 families were removed from Individual Unfit Houses. Of these latter houses 5 were demolished and another 5 dealt with by Closing Orders.

Representations regarding a Clearance Area known as Caton—The Croft Area were made to the Council in December. The area comprises two blocks of houses, 14 in all, together with out-buildings, and confirmation of the Order by the Minister was awaited at the end of the year.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of premises inspected during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 146 |
| Number of visits made for the purpose | ... | ... | ... | ... | 203 |
| Number of houses found unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Number of premises found not in all respects reasonably fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58 |
| Number of Premises rendered fit by informal action | ... | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
| Number of houses demolished | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |

SHOPS ACT

There are 46 premises in the district within the purview of the Act and these are regularly visited. Almost the whole of these shops are small semi-domestic businesses where the employees are members of the proprietor's family and no action has been necessary for infringements of the Shops Act or Public Health Act during the year.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

(a) Meat Inspection

There are two licensed slaughter-houses in the district and both are situated in the village of Caton. One of these premises is used by a butcher who, over the past few years, has developed a wholesale trade and animals are slaughtered almost daily.

Set out below are details of the number of animals slaughtered and an effort has been made to inspect the whole of the carcasses handled, on the premises. This has necessitated the making of 358 visits during the year. Particulars are also given of the meat and organs found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption. The disposal of meat condemned at the slaughter-houses is carried out by an arrangement with the Hide and Bone Merchants who visit the slaughter-houses, other condemned foodstuffs being buried on the Council's refuse tip.

Number of Animals Slaughtered and Examined

| | Cattle exclu'g Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|---|---------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| Number killed (if known) ... | 161 | 108 | 1 | 1207 | 7 |
| Number inspected | 161 | 108 | 1 | 1207 | 7 |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :— | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned. | 1 | Nil | Nil | 12 | Nil |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.. | 26 | 22 | Nil | 143 | Nil |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ... | 17 | 20 | Nil | 12.8 | Nil |
| Tuberculosis only :— | | | | | |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.. | 1 | 2 | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis | 0.6 | 1.8 | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Cysticercosis | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

The quality of the meat examined is very good as is reflected in the small proportion of the amount condemned and very few casualty animals were brought to the premises during the year as the local farmers usually send such animals to the Lancaster City Abattoir for slaughter.

Particulars of Meat Condemned

All Diseases except Tuberculosis:—

| | | | | |
|----------------|--------|-----|-----|--------------------------------|
| Carcases : | Heifer | ... | 1 | } Total weight : 2,006 lbs. |
| Livers : | Heifer | ... | 26 | |
| | Cow | ... | 24 | |
| | Sheep | ... | 121 | |
| Lungs : | Heifer | ... | 1 | |
| | Cow | ... | 3 | |
| Forequarters : | Sheep | ... | 2 | |
| Hindquarters: | Heifer | ... | 2 | |
| | Cow | ... | 2 | |
| | Sheep | ... | 1 | |

Tuberculosis Only:—

| | | | | |
|----------|--------|-----|---|------------------------------|
| Heads : | Heifer | ... | 1 | } Total weight : 105 lbs. |
| | Cow | ... | 1 | |
| Livers : | Heifer | ... | 1 | |
| | Cow | ... | 1 | |
| Lungs : | Heifer | ... | 1 | |
| | Cow | ... | 1 | |

Total weight condemned : 2,121 lbs.

(b) Other Foodstuffs

Regular routine visits are paid to other food-preparing premises and shops. As these are mostly small family businesses, the standard of cleanliness is high and foodstuffs are handled with greater care than in many larger premises.

Few difficulties have been met with in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations. Owners and occupiers of the premises concerned are only too willing to co-operate and carry out alterations where these are deemed to be necessary.

The growing popularity of pre-packed and frozen foods is reflected in the amount of this type of food on sale in the area. Several shop-keepers in the district have, during the past year or two, installed deep-freeze refrigerators and from their comments on this type of apparatus, all are well pleased with the turnover of stock through the refrigerators, even when the cost of these appears rather expensive. Traders should be encouraged to install these fittings and the general public will, without doubt, appreciate service of this nature.

MILK AND DAIRIES

A large quantity of the milk produced in this area is removed to dairies outside the district where it is either pasteurised before re-sale or used in the manufacture of cheese or condensed milk.

Pasteurised milk is retailed in some parts of the district but almost all untreated milk sold locally is obtained from Accredited or T.T. herds. The pasteurised milk is obtained from wholesalers in Lancaster and all dirty bottles are returned to these dairies for cleansing and sterilising.

Five schools in the district obtain milk from local farmers in the vicinity of the schools whose herds are tuberculin tested, and samples of school milk are regularly obtained for analysis by members of the County Medical Officer of Health's staff.

Samples of milk sold by retail are obtained from time to time. These specimens are delivered to the Pathology Department of the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, and during the year 14 specimens of raw milk and two samples of pasteurised milk were all reported upon as satisfactory.

SCHOOLS

None of the 15 schools in the area are of recent construction and the provision of modern amenities such as hot water supplies, washing facilities and sanitary accommodation is still being requested for a number of schools. Many of these premises are controlled by

local management committees who have not the financial means to bring the schools up to modern standards, nor in some cases does there appear to be the interest in providing better facilities. Difficulties also appear to arise between these local managers and the local Education Authority when such schemes are put up for approval and considerable delays have been apparent once the alterations have been approved before work is commenced.

A new treatment plant was provided at Quernmore School which is supplied with water from a small private source near the school. The plant comprises a sand filter, chlorinator and carbon dechlorinator and from the reports of the pathologist on specimens of water submitted for analysis it appears that the equipment is working very satisfactorily.

RODENT CONTROL

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, the Council set up a comprehensive inspection and treatment scheme early in 1956. One man is employed on this work and his duties combine work under the Act with those of foreman over the Refuse Collection Service.

This service includes the inspection of agricultural holdings, business premises and private dwellings, although work has been concentrated upon farm premises to a greater extent. Contracts for the treatment of rodents are entered into wherever possible following inspection, farm and business premises being dealt with in this manner. Private houses are given free treatment where and when required, but it is hoped that more contracts can be negotiated and, in time, the service could possibly become self-supporting. It is known, however, that at least two private operators are working in this district, and they have a number of contracts with farmers to treat their premises.

The various sewerage systems in the area are baited and poisoned where necessary twice yearly to comply with the recommendations of the Ministry, and the Council's refuse tips are kept under strict observation and treatment carried out where necessary.

Set out below are details of the work carried out under the Act :

| TYPE OF PROPERTY | | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|-----------|
| | Agri-cultural | Non-Agricultural | |
| | | Dwelling Houses | All Other |
| No. of properties inspected | 234 | 551 | 152 |
| Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections) | 304 | 650 | 196 |
| No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :— | | | |
| Rats : major | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| minor | 48 | 16 | 12 |
| Mice : major | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| minor | 9 | 31 | 11 |
| No. of infested properties treated ... | 57 | 47 | 23 |
| Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments) | 698 | 132 | 99 |
| No. of “Block” control schemes carried out | 3 | 5 | 4 |

Sewer Treatment

| | |
|--|-----|
| Total number of manholes baited | 137 |
| Number of manholes showing prebait take | 49 |
| Number of manholes showing complete prebait take (one or both days) | 78 |
| Number of manholes showing complete poison take | 31 |
| Number of manholes showing part poison take | 24 |

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

There are 53 premises affected by the above legislation on the register and 47 visits have been paid to these during the year. No infringements of the requirements of the Acts were found and the co-operation of the managements of the firms concerned is appreciated.

